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Quarantine Station, under the terms of the governor's proclamation, shall be held for observation, with their crews, passengers, and cargoes, not less than five full days after completion of disinfection.

Such vessels as have been disinfected at the port of departure in a manner satisfactory to this board will be again disinfected at the Mississippi River Quarantine Station, and the time of detention will be five days counting from the first disinfection at port of departure.

A true copy:

G. FARRAR PATTON, M. D.,  
*Secretary.*

*West coast of Mexico—Relation to the United States as regards plague, small-pox, and yellow fever.*

SAN DIEGO QUARANTINE STATION,  
*San Diego, Cal., February 3, 1900.*

SIR: Replying to Bureau letter (F. L. G.) of date January 24, as to possibility of bubonic plague gaining entrance to the United States through Mexico, I have the honor to state that there are no lines of vessels plying between the Orient and Honolulu and the Pacific coast of Mexico. All the passenger traffic from the Orient and Honolulu to Mexico passes through San Francisco and San Diego. Relative to immigrants entering the United States through Mexico, in order to evade any of the quarantine or immigration laws and regulations, I have to state that careful inquiry reveals the fact that they do not.

On account of its isolated position, being separated from the mainland by the Gulf of California, the population of lower California is sparse, consisting only of a few miners and ranchmen. Ensenada, the principal and only town, being the capital, and having about 2,000 inhabitants, has connection north with San Francisco and San Diego by steamer, and south as far as Mazatlan.

The number of passengers carried by vessels from Ensenada to San Diego during the past twelve months was 1,428; the remainder of passenger travel both ways being about equal and the travel being purely local, it would appear that there is no danger of the introduction of plague from this source.

There is, however, great danger from smallpox or yellow fever when such diseases are prevalent in Mazatlan, Mexico, a large and very unsanitary town on the Gulf coast. In the event of such disease reaching Ensenada, it would seem necessary to place a sanitary inspector and guards at Tia Juana, on the Mexican line, to prevent the entrance of infected persons overland from Ensenada. At Tia Juana, the American and Mexican customs officers are stationed, that being a small town of 200 or 300 inhabitants and visited by many tourists. The country on the American side is tolerably well settled up to the line; the Mexican side is only a stock range.

The Cosmos Line steamers run from Hamburg to San Francisco by way of all South American, Central American, Mexican coast ports, and San Diego, this being the first United States port they enter. The steamers are large fine vessels; there is one each month and it is thought the line is a permanent one, as all passengers and freight from the South destined for interior and for Eastern points come off here to go over the Santa Fe Route, thereby saving three days time over the route via San Francisco.

Respectfully,

W. W. MCKAY,  
*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*